



City of Baltimore

Department of Public Works

600 ABEL WOLMAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Works urges residents to “cool off” safely: **Keep Fire Hydrants Closed; Enjoy Park Pools**

Summer begins tomorrow and already temperatures have been in the 90's. The Department of Public Works today issued a reminder to citizens that opening fire hydrants is illegal and not a safe way to cool off. DPW urges citizens to keep cool safely by visiting the local pools or City Health Department cooling centers.

An open fire hydrant flows at a rate of 1,000 gallons per minute. The force of this water can easily push a child or even an adult into oncoming roadway traffic. Open hydrants also reduce water pressure, hindering the emergency efforts of fire fighters. As a proactive measure, Public Works installs fire hydrant locks throughout the City in critical areas near hospitals and high-rise apartment buildings. In the City, there are 4,000 hydrants with locks which can only be opened by Fire Department, Police or Public Works crews.

The Department of Recreation and Parks will officially open park pools this week on June 23rd. That day the agency will also kickoff of the annual “Cool Off” safety campaign to increase public awareness on the dangers of illegally opening fire hydrants and the hazards of swimming in unsupervised pools, and unsafe lakes and waterways.

Everyone is urged to help in keeping our City safe. If you see an open fire hydrant, report it right away by calling 311. If you are outside Baltimore City, dial 410-396-5352. For additional tips on keeping cool this summer or for more information on Recreation and Parks' pools or Health Department cooling centers, visit www.BaltimoreCity.gov.



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